

HARMONY FIRE DISTRICT

P.O. Box 360 – 194 Putnam Pike
Harmony, R.I. 02829

The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Harmony Fire District Executive Board was held at the Harmony Fire Station on **Thursday, September 16, 2010.**

Present: Chief Stuart Pearson; Moderator - Raymond Fogarty, Jr.;
Treasurer - Sandra Owens; Tax Collector - Kimberly Barber;
Board Members - James Richards, Milton Huston & George Kain
Attorney - Fred Mason, Jr.; Association Representative – John Falco, President

Absent: Board Member - Louise Michaels (excused)

I. – Meeting Called to Order: 7:14 pm by Moderator Fogarty.

II. - Approval of the minutes from the August 19th meeting.

Moderator Fogarty asked the board if there were any discrepancies to note on the minutes from the August 19th meeting. If not, he would like to call for a motion to accept them.

Jim made a motion to accept the minutes. George seconded the motion. The motion carried.

III. - Treasurer's Report:

Sandy presented her reports for the months of June, July and August. Beginning balance June 1st \$249,641.86 and the ending balance June 30th \$214,181.53. This is also the ending balance for the 2009-10 fiscal year. Approximately 92% of the budget was expended, which is pretty much in line with previous years.

Beginning balance July 1st is \$214,181.53 and the ending balance July 31st \$215,599.69. Routine expenses and FEMA money received for flood expenses. Most of this money was used to pay-out the Flood Call-Pay to the crew. Also, some credit amounts show in the July expense columns. This is due to reversing Journal entries made at year-end, that actual bills have not been received for yet. This will correct itself in the following months.

Beginning balance August 1st \$215,599.69 and the ending balance August 31st \$209,265.01. Routine expenses this month.

Milt made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Jim seconded it. The motion carried.

A month has passed since the Audit report was presented to the board for review. Moderator Fogarty asked if there were any comments or questions to make regarding the report. If not he would like to call for a motion to accept it. George made a motion to accept the Fiscal Year End 6/30/09 Auditor's Report. Milt seconded it. The motion carried.

Ray wanted to thank Sandy on behalf of the board for all of her hard work. Sandy stated that her 20th anniversary is coming up soon. She started with the district in 1991. Everyone congratulated her on this achievement.

IV. - Tax Collector's Report:

2010 fire district tax bills were mailed on September 1st, with a due date of September 30th. The total tax levy was \$446,182.96. \$53,406.30 in payments have already been posted, with \$85,458.25 to be processed tomorrow. This totals \$138,864.55, about 31% of the tax levy collected in 17 days.

Taxes receivable balance is \$469,234.12 as of today's date. Taxes collected in the month of August were \$12,179.39. These collections had a lot to do with the upcoming tax sale. Many tax payers facing tax sale are choosing to make payment arrangements on their accounts. Third party billing monies collected in the month of August totaled \$8,259.28.

Check received from FEMA today for \$2,175.37. This increases the reimbursed flood expenses from 75% to 90% of the total claimed. This amount was posted to the Miscellaneous Income account. This account is also where the additional FEMA funds were posted.

Newspaper Articles from the Woonsocket Call, Valley Breeze/Observer and Foster Home Journal, as well as a Senate Citation issued for the Chief's Outstanding Leadership Award were put out for viewing by the board.

Another item was brought to Kim's attention by our VFIS Insurance agent and the Chief suggested she bring it to the board. VFIS states that currently our Auto policy does not have Auto Med pay coverage. Auto Med pay would cover a passenger in a covered vehicle for injuries sustained through a mishap while riding in the vehicle. Ray asked if our Umbrella package would cover these types of things. Kim said no, VFIS would pay up to the \$5,000 limit for any medical bills incurred due to injuries, without need for a suit to be brought. The cost to include an additional \$5,000 in Auto Med pay coverage for all vehicles, would be an annual additional premium of \$160. Attorney Mason stated that this is for "No Fault" coverage. Some discussion followed. The board requested that Kim find out further rates for increasing our limits vs. adding Auto Med. Sandy asked how often a non-member would actually ride in our apparatus. George said it was more often than you think, for example a patient being transported and their husband coming along for the ride in the rescue. Ray said he had assumed over the years that our Umbrella policy would cover these things, but apparently not. However, if the district was to get sued, it would probably be for \$2,000,000, not \$5,000, so we definitely need a greater amount of coverage for our protection. What is a normal fiduciary responsibility for a business such as ours? Attorney Mason said \$25,000, because this is for the "No Fault" portion alone. Above that the case would definitely be brought to suit. This would happen whether you have Auto Med pay or not. We have separate liability insurance for a suit. The Chief asked that Kim contact VFIS to see why this subject was brought up to begin with and also to check what our Umbrella policy limits are.

Kim wanted to inform the board that Opal Data employee, Courtney Saucedo, is leaving for training in the Air National Guard. Courtney is the representative that Kim works with frequently for our tax software and tax bill preparation. Kim will update the board should she be deployed.

In regards to the changes to be made to the district charter. Kim contacted Senator Fogarty's office, as the board had suggested, to find out the legislative process. The senator's secretary, Claire Birkmaier,

returned her call and stated she would check into it for us. She also confirmed that we cannot submit anything until November 15th.

Jim made a motion to accept the Tax Collector's report. George seconded it. The motion carried.

V. - Chief's Report:

Progress is being made at the training site in West Glocester. If you drive by you will see the containers there and a roof top going on the building. This is where the roof simulator is going. Chief Dauphinais is working on this construction with \$3,000 in grant money from the RI State Firemen's League. The Chief asked John Falco, since he had been working at the site personally, if he could report to the board on the status. John stated that there is still a staircase and dividers to be built, but he thinks the roof simulator may be done this Saturday. The Chief suggested that the board take an official trip to the site when it is complete. Everyone agreed.

Jim asked the Chief about the status of the Fire Academy. The Dedication should be sometime in November or December. The total project cost is \$6.4 million. Of that \$1.3 million is for the ground water testing and design and \$1/2 million is just for the project design. Some discussion followed about the fire academy.

Another meeting of the Glocester Public Safety Committee was held. At our last meeting the board had discussed the issue of speed bumps and asked us to contact the other Glocester Fire Chiefs and find out their position. GPSC discussed the possible removal of the "Traffic Calming Device" on Absalona Hill Road. A request made to the GPSC for a speed bump on Jackson Schoolhouse Road was addressed by installing a 3 way stop sign and another request on Maplewood Road was denied after research was done. Some discussion followed regarding speed bumps.

A motion was made by George stating, "The Harmony Fire District board is opposed to speed bumps on town roads and is of the opinion that they are a detriment to public safety." The motion was seconded by Jim. The motion carried.

We have been working on getting some apartment complex inspections up to date. Deputy Chief Segee has been working on one and it will be going before the Fire Code Board of Appeal & Review for time variances, so deficiencies can be corrected.

A status update was given on the Lakeside Motel renovation. Fire Alarm testing was done today, 9/16, so they could be given their Certificate of Occupancy. The Chief feels it should be done within a couple of weeks. Some discussion followed regarding fire code specifications for motels.

The Oakland-Mapleville Fire Departments 51st Annual Muster & Parade was held on Labor Day weekend. Our crew won 2 trophies: 3rd Place in the Dry Event and 3rd Place in the Mystery Event. 8 teams participated, one of which was from out of state. Private Johnathan Detri received an award for the Oldest Fire Apparatus attending the event. West Glocester Fire Department won an award for being the department traveling the farthest to attend the event, 9.4 miles. The out of state team arrived late, so they were disqualified from participating in this event.

Yesterday, Deputy Chief Segee and I attended a mandatory class for all Assistant Deputy State Fire Marshals at the RI Fire Academy, Installation of Smoke & CO Detectors in 3 Family Dwellings.

Last night a department officer's meeting was held at Chester's Restaurant. Training and activities were scheduled for the following 3 months.

As most have already heard, last week all Gloucester companies fought a fire at the home of Patty Svannson, Chepachet Fire District's Tax Collector. She and her husband were out of town at the time, so no one was injured.

We have started working on this year's Christmas Tree Lighting scheduled for the Sunday after Thanksgiving, 11/28. Everyone be sure to mark their calendar.

Milt made a motion to accept the Chief's report. George seconded it. The motion carried.

VI. – Harmony Fire Department & Improvement Association Report:

John Falco, President, presented a report on behalf of the Association.

The Gloucester Firefighters Scholarship Steak Fry will be held on Saturday, October 2nd at Watmough's Campground. Tickets are \$15 and are available for purchase.

John also had a sketch drawn up for the proposed patio area behind the building. Copies were presented to all board members for their review. The patio would be about 15' wide and about 30' away from the existing shed. John and the Chief had measured the length for the fence to go completely across the back and it comes to about 150-160'. He is now checking prices for a split rail type fence. A couple crew members had mentioned adding a horseshoe pit. Lighting options are also being looked into. Safety issues are also being addressed. The entire plan will be voted on at the Association meeting in November. The Chief brought up the traffic questions discussed at our last meeting. The best option that they came up with was a portable steel post or ballard, painted a reflective color, that could be put in and removed as necessary. A policy would be put in place regarding its use. Some discussion followed regarding the scope of the plan, the structure for the grill covering and its long term feasibility. The possibility of the district helping with the cost of the project is also open for discussion. Recreation being available to the crew as a group is great for the department moral and the district wants to show their support.

VII. - Committee Reports:

- a. Policies & Procedures Manual – Milton, Chair
Milt will come in for a meeting with the Chief and Kim. No outside help is needed at this time. We are looking for a basic handbook for the administrative side of the District. Tom Mainville at the Gloucester Town Hall should be contacted for input on this project.
- b. Charter & By-Laws Review – George, Chair
Already addressed in Kim's report.

VIII. - Old Business:

The Board will review a Boiler RFP advertisement by e-mail, that way we can move forward on this project before the next board meeting. Ray will get E.D.C. and/or Governor's Office on Energy grant information to the Chief. This may pay 75% of our expense. Kim will send a letter to a local foundation, requesting funds to help with this project. Some discussion followed about the boiler project.

IX. - New Business: Addressed throughout reports.

X. - Public Input: No audience.

XI. – Executive Session: None called.

XII. – Adjournment:

George made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Milt seconded it. The motion carried.

The September meeting of the Harmony Fire District Executive Board was adjourned at **8:28 pm.**

The next meeting of the Harmony Fire District Executive Board
is scheduled for **Thursday, 7:00 pm, October 21, 2010** at the Harmony Fire Department.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kimberly S. Barber".

Kimberly S. Barber
Tax Collector/Secretary